

The following is a listing of the claims under revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

1. **(Currently amended)** A system for managing a transmission of funds, comprising:

a first interface for communicating first information regarding at least one payment source;

a second interface for communicating second information regarding at least one payee account; and

a processor, communicating with the first interface and the second interface, the processor selectably directing the transmission of funds from the at least one payment source to the at least one payee account based on an optimization determination that is performed by the processor, the optimization determination determining a payment mechanism to use to transfer the funds from the at least one payment source to the at least one payee account, wherein the at least one payment source is determined prior to performing the optimization determination;

wherein the processor:

determines from a set of payment mechanisms a reduced set of payment mechanisms, the reduced set being a set of payment mechanisms from which one payment mechanism is determined to effect the transmission of funds, the reduced set of payment mechanisms including at least two payment mechanisms; and

after determining the reduced set of payment mechanisms, the processor performs the optimization determination; and

the processor effecting the transfer of funds using the determined payment mechanism.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the optimization determination comprises a calculation of at least one of payment source data, payee account data, payment

schedule data, payment type data and privacy data.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one payment source comprises at least one of a direct deposit account, a source credit account, a mortgage account, a securities account, a money market account, a micro payment account, an overdraft account and a stored value account.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one payee account comprises at least one of a utility account, a mortgage account, a payee credit account, and a contribution account.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a storage module, communicating with the processor, the storage module storing at least one of the data on the optimization determination, data on the at least one payment source account, and data on the at least one payee account.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first interface and the second interface comprises a telephone connection.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first interface and the second interface comprises a network connection.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network connection comprises a remote client from which a user may communicate transaction instructions.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote client comprises at least one of a computer, a network-enabled cellular telephone, a portable digital assistant, a paging device, and a set-top box.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the user comprises at least one of a consumer, a business entity and a government entity.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first interface and the second interface comprises a desktop graphical user interface directly communicating with the processor.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the processor performs an optimization on a transaction carried out according to the transaction instructions.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the optimization comprises at least one of minimizing a cost variable, fulfilling a transaction schedule, minimizing a payment penalty, maximizing a float of the at least one source account, ensuring an affiliation between the payment source and the payee account, maximizing security, maximizing reliability, minimizing risk, fulfilling a contractual obligation, maximizing volume discounts, aggregating a transaction amounts, maximizing a transaction amount and maximizing available bonus awards.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the optimization comprises minimizing a cost variable, and the cost variable comprises at least one of a transaction cost charged to a payment initiator and an internal cost absorbed by a payment enabler.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the optimization determination comprises utilization of third party associations and payment providers.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein members of the third party associations are systematically identified by at least one of real time calls to the third party association, and real time calls to a datastore containing third party association member data which is periodically updated.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the optimization determination comprises a systematic identification and internal settlement for closed loop payments in which the payment source and the at least one payee account reside within one entity.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein an expense reduction resulting from optimization of the cost variable is realized by at least one of the payment enabler and the payment initiator.

19. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 2, wherein a payment initiator is presented with at least two payment mechanisms that meet the payment schedule data and associated costs of the at least two mechanisms, and the payment initiator is permitted to manually choose an optimal method of transfer.

20. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the transmission of funds comprises a currency conversion.

21. **(Currently amended)** A computer implemented method for managing a transmission of funds, comprising:

- a) communicating first information regarding at least one payment source;
- b) communicating second information regarding at least one payee account;
- c) determining from a set of payment mechanisms a reduced set of payment mechanisms, the reduced set being a set of payment mechanisms from which one payment mechanism is determined to effect the transmission of funds, the reduced set of payment mechanisms including at least two payment mechanisms;

- d) performing an optimization determination for a transaction being funded by the at least one payment source, the optimization determination determining one payment mechanism, out of the reduced set being a set of payment mechanisms, to use in transmitting the funds; and

- e) directing the transmission of funds from the at least one payment source to the at least one payee account using the one payment mechanism; and

wherein the at least one payment source is determined prior to performing the

optimization determination.

22. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the optimization determination comprises a step e) of calculating at least one of payment source data, payee account data, payment schedule data, payment type data and privacy data.

23. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the at least one payment source comprises at least one of a direct deposit account, a source credit account, a mortgage account, a securities account, a money market account, a micro payment account, an overdraft account and a stored value account.

24. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the at least one payee account comprises at least one of a utility account, a mortgage account, a payee credit account, and a contribution account.

25. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, further comprising a step of g) storing at least one of the data on the optimization determination, data on the at least one payment source account, and data on the at least one payee account.

26. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein at least one of step a) and step b) comprises communicating via telephone connection.

27. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein at least one of step a) and step b) comprises communicating via a network connection.

28. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 27, wherein the network connection comprises a remote client from which a user may communicate transaction instructions.

29. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 28, wherein the remote client comprises at least one of a computer, a network-enabled cellular telephone, a

portable digital assistant, a paging device, and a set-top box.

30. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 27, wherein the user comprises at least one of a consumer, a business entity and a government entity.

31. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein at least one of step a) and step b) comprises communicating with the processor directly via a desktop graphical user interface.

32. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, further comprising performing a further optimization on a transaction.

33. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the step d) of performing an optimization determination comprises performing at least one of minimizing a cost variable, fulfilling a transaction schedule, minimizing a payment penalty, maximizing a float of the at least one source account, ensuring an affiliation between the payment source and the payee account, maximizing security, maximizing reliability, minimizing risk, fulfilling a contractual obligation, maximizing volume discounts, aggregating a transaction amounts, maximizing a transaction amount and maximizing available bonus awards.

34. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 33, wherein the optimization comprises minimizing a cost variable, and the cost variable comprises at least one of a transaction cost charged to a payment initiator and an internal cost absorbed by a payment enabler.

35. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the optimization determination comprises utilization of third party associations and payment providers.

36. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 35, wherein

members of the third party associations are systematically identified by at least one of real time calls to the third party association, and real time calls to a datastore containing third party association member data which is periodically updated.

37. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the optimization determination comprises a systematic identification and internal settlement for closed loop payments in which the payment source and the at least one payee account reside within one entity.

38. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 34, wherein an expense reduction resulting from optimization of the cost variable is realized by at least one of the payment enabler and the payment initiator.

39. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 22, wherein a payment initiator is presented with at least two mechanisms that meet the payment schedule data and associated costs of the at least two mechanisms, and the payment initiator is permitted to manually choose an optimal method of transfer.

40. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein the transmission of funds comprises a currency conversion.

41. **(Currently amended)** A system for managing a transmission of funds, comprising:

means for communicating first information regarding at least one payment source;

means for communicating second information regarding at least one payee account; and

optimization means, communicating with the means for communicating first information and the means for communicating the second information, the optimization means selectably directing a transmission of funds from the at least one payment source to the at least one payee

account based on an optimization determination, the optimization determination determining a payment mechanism to use to transmit the funds from the at least one payment source to the at least one payee account; and

wherein the at least one payment source is determined prior to the optimization means performing the optimization determination;

wherein the optimization means:

determines from a set of payment mechanisms a reduced set of payment mechanisms, the reduced set being a set of payment mechanisms from which one payment mechanism is determined to effect the transmission of funds, the reduced set of payment mechanisms including at least two payment mechanisms; and

after determining the reduced set of payment mechanisms, the optimization means performs the optimization determination to determine the payment mechanism to use to transmit the funds; and

the system effecting the transfer of funds using the determined payment mechanism.

42. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein performing the optimization determination comprises maximizing volume discounts.

43. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein performing the optimization determination comprises aggregating a transaction amounts.

44. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein performing the optimization determination comprises maximizing a transaction amount and maximizing available bonus awards.

45. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one payment

source comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a checking or other demand deposit account (DDA), money market fund, securities account, stored value account, credit card account, currency account, overdraft line of credit, micro payment account, and line of credit.

46. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor further performing a second optimization process, the second optimization process selecting the at least payment source, from a plurality of payment sources, based on an optimization process.

47. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the system allows the payment request initiator to select a payment source from a plurality of payment sources.